



# Potchefstroom Boys' High



**FOUNDED: 1905**  
**MOTTO: IUSTORUM SEMITA LUX**  
**SPLENDENS (THE PATH OF GOOD**  
**MEN IS A BRIGHT LIGHT)**  
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## School History

On 31 January 1905, accompanied by the band of the Border Regiment, Sir Richard Solomon, Lt-Governor of the Transvaal, opened Potchefstroom College. The name was soon changed to Potchefstroom High School for Boys, but it is still referred to as College by its boys and Old Boys, who are called "Old Moois". The site for the school had been an infamous concentration camp during the World War II.

The first school on the land was for the children interned in the camp. In 1903 the Potchefstroom Central School was opened in the town. Then the townsfolk urged Lt-Governor Sir Arthur Lawley to establish a school in the oldest town in the Transvaal. The town council offered the 40-acre site.

The Director of Education asked the Jeppe headmaster, CD Hope, to submit his name for the post of headmaster, which he did. Before Jeppe he had been headmaster of Pretoria Boys' High. He stayed longer in Potchefstroom! During the 1905 hunting season, just before the first Springboks went on their rugby tour, the headmaster, CD Hope, was given the horns of a springbok by his brother-in-law. These horns are mounted in the school's museum and a springbok head is part of the school's badge. The present headmaster, "Tich" Cartwright, is the seventh in 103 years. The school, an English-medium school, is mainly a boarding school.



I came to South Africa from Australia because of my dad's work as a Rabbi. I went to Grey High initially, and then up to Potchefstroom — to Boys' High. Unfortunately my father changed his congregation like he changed his underpants, and after the summer terms at Potch, I was off to Johannesburg and Jeppe, where I represented that school's first undefeated rugby side. But my memories of Potchefstroom Boys' High are vivid and great. I played First XI Cricket there, which was really my main sport. I remember the school being very good, strict and disciplined. Many of their Old Boys, especially the Kirsh family who are related to the Bachers, put a lot of money into the school. Attending great schools like Potch Boys gave me opportunities to progress in sport. I was the youngest player to represent the senior Transvaal rugby team at 17 years of age. From there, Danie Craven looked after me.

— Wilf Rosenberg



## Rugby at Potch Boys

Rugby was first played in the old Transvaal in Potchefstroom. The town club, Potchefstroom Dorp, was founded in 1885. Potchefstroom Boys' High changed its focus from soccer to rugby in 1913 and for 16 seasons played on a hard, grassless field. The school also played in the men's leagues till the end of 1923. The First XV field is called "Gevers", after T Gevers who coached the First XV from 1921 to 1944. The school's golden rugby years were perhaps those between 1946-52. Of the 112 First XV matches played, 82 were won and eight drawn. In 1970 the pavilion was built.

Two Old Boys have played for South Africa: Wilf Rosenberg and Jeremy Nel, both wandering men. Rosenberg wandered to many schools, as his father, a rabbi, was posted to various places. Jeremy Nel ended his career having played for more provinces than any other South African. He and Ashton Townsend were chosen for Western Transvaal when still at school. The headmaster would however not let them play. More recently, Matthew Proudfoot played for the Bulls until 2003, before migrating North to Glasgow and national selection for Scotland. Edgar Marutlolle was selected for SA Schools in consecutive years in 2004 and 2005. Thulip Marole

played for the 2006 SA Schools team and the 2007 Under-19 Leopards. Boet Nesor was an Old Mooi. An outstanding rugby referee, he reffed eight tests, including all four (at the All Blacks' request) in 1928. He held the record for the number of tests refereed by a South African till he was surpassed by Freek Burger.

Outside of the local schools derbies, Potchefstroom BHS also plays Pretoria Boys' High (its oldest rival), KES, Jeppe, Parktown and St Stithians.

## Internationals

**South Africa:**  
Wilf Rosenberg,  
Jeremy Nel

**Scotland:**  
Matt Proudfoot

**Rhodesia:**  
B Viljoen

**Zambia:**  
B Sutton

